Brought to you by

Lively Scans

Black Rabbit
Translator and QC

Kiyiya
Proofreader and Typesetter

Murasaki
Cleaner

http://livelyscans.com/

READ COMICS ONLINE WHILE SUPPORTING THE GROUPS WHO BROUGHT THEM TO YOU AT:

WWW. BATOTO .COM

BY SCANLATORS FOR SCANLATORS!

- BATOTO IS AN ONLINE READER DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING SCANLATORS AND THEIR POLICIES.
- VIEW COMICS IN FULL QUALITY WITH NO IMAGE COMPRESSION.
- KOREAN WEBTOONS ARE VIEWABLE IN THEIR ORIGINAL ONE-STRIP FORMAT.

SO YOU WANT TO READ MORE OF THIS MANGA ...

WELL, THAT WON'T HAPPEN UNLESS WE GET A NEW CLEANER

SO COME JOIN ME AT LIVELY SCANS

幽麗塔

2

乃木坂太郎

黒岩涙香[幽霊塔]より

ビッグコミックス好評発売中／

味いちもんめ（あべ善太・倉田よしみ）……全33巻
新・味いちもんめ（倉田よしみ・あべ善太・福田幸江）……全21巻
味いちもんめ～独立編～（倉田よしみ・あべ善太・福田幸江）…1～7集
あずみ（小山ゆう）……全48巻
AZUMI～あずみ～（小山ゆう）……1～10集
覇-LORD-（武論尊・池上遼一）……全22巻
SOUL 覇 第2章（武論尊・池上遼一）……1集
ルナハイツ（星里もちる）……全4巻
光速シスター（星里もちる）……1～2集
らーめん才遊記（久部緑郎・河合単）……1～6集
MOONLIGHT MILE（太田垣康男）……1～23集
キーチ!!（新井英樹）……全9巻
キーチVS（新井英樹）……1～8集
医龍Team Medical Dragon（乃木坂太郎原案／永井明）……全25巻
幽麗塔（乃木坂太郎）……1～2集
ジキルとハイドと裁判員（北原雅紀・森田崇）……全5巻
匠三代（倉科遼・佐藤智一）……1～5集
マネーの拳（三田紀房）……全12巻
総理の椅子（国友やすゆき）……1～6集
県庁の星（佐藤真タ・杉浦真タ・今谷鉄柱）……全4巻
世界の中心でくだをまく（仮）（ロドリゲス井之介）…1～3集
相棒-たった二人の特命係-（こやす珠世・原案／制作／TVドラマ「相棒」テレビ朝日・東映）…1～11集
はんなり！（柴門ふみ）……全4巻
同窓生 人は、三度、恋をする（柴門ふみ）……1集
タッチアップ（田澤拓也・盛田賢司）……全7巻
スプライト（石川優吾）……1～7集
ダクションマン（猪熊しのぶ）……全4巻
フットボールネーション（大武ユキ）…1～3集
亭主元気で犬がいい（徳弘正也）……1～3集
王様のホームタウン（原秀則）……1～2集
銭ドク Money Doctor（もんでんあきこ）……1集

●COVER ILLUSTRATION／乃木坂太郎 ●LOGO & COVER DESIGN／辻本有博+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

ISBN978-4-09-184257-2

C9979 ¥524E

定価：本体524円＋税

雑誌 45792-57　　小学館

AMANO, THE MAN WHO IS DETERMINED TO CONFRONT THE MURDEROUS DEMON 'SHIBANMUSHI'.

THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD RIKA, WHO COULD BE 'SHIBANMUSHI'.

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A PHOTO OF RIKA, AMANO AND TETSUO SET OF TO AN INLAND ISLAND. HOWEVER, ON THAT SEEMINGLY PEACEFUL ISLAND, THEY COME ACROSS A DISTURBING SECRET TRADITION AND A TRAGIC LAW THAT EXISTS TILL THIS DAY....

AFTER THE TWO OF THEM LEARN OF THE TRUTH, THE ISLANDERS START TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS.

乃木坂太郎 著作集

■ビッグコミックス

医龍……全25巻発売中!!
幽麗塔……1～2集発売中!!

■ビッグコミックス好評発売中／

あぶさん（水島新司）……1～99集
夕焼けの詩（西岸良平）……1～59集
浮浪雲（ジョージ秋山）……1～94集
釣りバカ日誌（やまさきじゅういち北見けんいち）……1～83集
釣りバカ日誌 番外編（やまさきじゅういち北見けんいち）……1～11集
銀河鉄道999（松本零士）……1～21集
黄昏流星群（弘兼憲史）……1～41集
パイナップルARMY（浦沢直樹 工藤かずや）……全8巻
MONSTER（浦沢直樹）……全18巻
PLUTO（浦沢直樹・手塚治虫・長崎尚志プロデュース 監修／手塚眞・協力／手塚プロダクション）……全8巻
玄米せんせいの弁当箱（魚戸おさむ 脚本／北原雅紀）……全10巻
ひよっこ料理人（魚戸おさむ）……1集
風の大地（坂田信弘・かざま鋭二）……1～55集
弁護士のくず第二審（井浦秀夫）……1～3集
どうらく息子（尾瀬あきら）……1～3集
あんどーなつ（西ゆうじ テリー山本）……1～15集
岳（石塚真一）……1～16集
うごかし屋（芳崎せいむ）……全4巻
蠶太郎（村上もとか）……全1巻
黄金のラフ（なかいま強）……全33巻
総務部総務課山口六平太（林律雄 高井研一郎）……1～66集
築地魚河岸三代目（はしもとみつお 鍋島雅治・九和かずと）……1～34集
ダブル・フェイス（細野不二彦）……全24巻
兵馬の旗Revolutionary Wars（かわぐちかいじ 協力／恵谷治）……1～2集
刺客 怨み葵（さいとうたかを 工藤かずや）……1～4集
上京花日（いわしげ孝）……1～6集
そばもんニッポン蕎麦行脚（山本おさむ）……1～8集
Sエス-最後の警官-（小森陽一 藤堂裕）……1～6集
憂国のラスプーチン（佐藤優・伊藤潤二 長崎尚志）……1～3集
神様のカルテ（石川サブロウ・夏川草介）……1～2集

インターネットでビッグコミックスが購入できます。
http://comics.shogakukan.co.jp/

The Ghost Tower

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

CONTENTS

9TH CHAPTER: A PHOTO OF RIKA ____ 5

10TH CHAPTER: LIES AND CONFESSION ____ 29

11TH CHAPTER: THE HONJOU HOUSEHOLD ____ 53

12TH CHAPTER: PERSUASION TO FREEDOM ____ 77

13TH CHAPTER: MOTHER'S BONES ____ 101

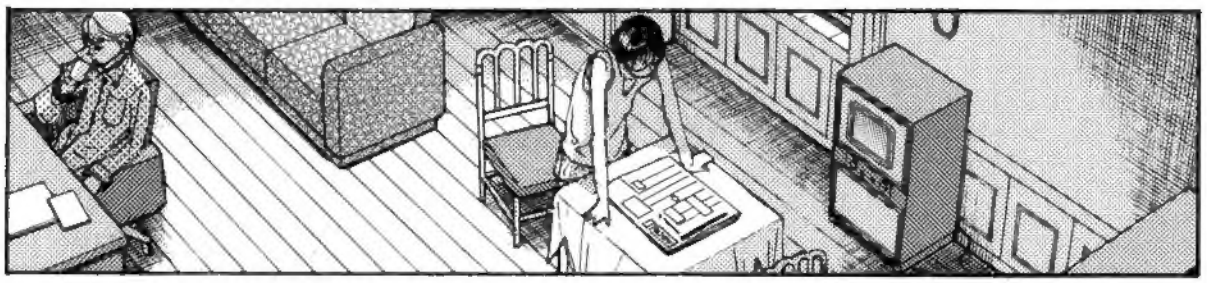
14TH CHAPTER: CHAINS OF SORROW ____ 125

15TH CHAPTER: TYPE O ____ 149

16TH CHAPTER: HUMANISM ____ 173

17TH CHAPTER: CHOOSING THE SACRIFICE ____ 197

CHAPTER 9 - A PHOTO OF RIKA



LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

AND THE POLICE WOULD NEVER TELL ANYTHING TO AN OUTSIDER SUCH AS MYSELF.

THE NEWSPAPER DOESN'T CONTAIN ANY DETAILS...

SO THEY'RE WITHHOLDING THE INFORMATION.

IN THE END,

IN THE MURDER THAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO.

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO LOOK FOR CLUES ABOUT HANAZONO-SAN'S MURDER,

HEY, TETSUO.

AND I JUST REALIZED, THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MURDER CASE FROM TWO YEARS AGO.

I'VE BEEN THINKING,

THE PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE MURDER CASE TWO YEARS AGO, INCLUDING RIKA, ARE ALL POSSIBLE SUSPECTS. ANYONE OF THEM COULD BE "SHIBANMUSHI".

THEY WERE BOTH CAUSED BY USING THE CLOCK TOWER.

WHY DID RIKA KILL HER STEPMOTHER?

THEY SAY....

IT WAS BECAUSE OF A GRUDGE.

.....

ACCORDING TO THE BUTLER AND THE MAID, THEY HAD A HUGE FALL OUT, THE DAY BEFORE THE MURDER.

IT SEEMS LIKE RIKA AND HER STEPMOTHER WERE CONSTANTLY ARGUING.

A GRUDGE?

SO THEY HAD A MAID AND A BUTLER.

.....

AT THE END, RIKA SHOUTED THIS TO HER STEPMOTHER...

THE REASON FOR THE FALL OUT IS UNCLEAR, BUT...

'MOTHER',

'I'LL KILL YOU'.
...OR SOME-THING.
RIKA STARTED CRYING ALL OF A SUDDEN DURING DINNER,
AND STARTED TAKING OFF HER CLOTHES UNTIL SHE WAS COMPLETELY NAKED...

ALL IN ALL, SHE WAS AN ECCENTRIC GIRL.
THEN SHE STARTED TALKING AS IF POSSESSED...
IT'S EVEN POSSI-BLE,
THAT SHE GOT POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT...

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

O...OK.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GO TO MARUBE.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

THAT'S JUST TOO UNSCIENTIFIC.

IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE THAT SHE WAS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT?

THIS IS JUST A STORY TOLD BY THE BUTLER AND THE MAID.

RIGHT NOW.

I'LL START FROM THERE.

IT'S POSSIBLE SHE WAS JUST CRAZY, OR THAT SOMEONE JUST WANTED TO CREATE SUCH AN IMAGE OF HER.

FUR-THER-MORE.

IT'S POSSIBLE THEY JUST SAID IT TO PUT THE BLAME ON RIKA...

IF THEY WERE ACCOM-PLICES,

SHOULD THAT BUTLER BE TETSUO,

THAT KILLED THE OLD WOMAN, RIKA AND HANAZONO-SAN.

THEN HE IS THE "SHIBANMUSHI",

GOOD MORNING.

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY BRAVE.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE TOO SCARED TO COME AFTER YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT....

OF COURSE.

YOU STILL HAVE THE WILL TO WORK.

WHAT'S THIS,

YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY MEAN TO THE GHOST TOWER?
MOVE?
GO HELP HER MOVE.
YOU'LL HELP SATOKO.
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
THE OLD HOUSEKEEPER THAT WAS WITH US FOR YEARS GOT SCARED AND RESIGNED.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE WE LEFT IT EMPTY!
THAT'S RIGHT,
A MURDER JUST HAPPENED THERE!!
THAT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS!!
SO YOU'LL BE EXTREMELY BUSY...

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

COULD IT BE...

LIKE SOME CLUES LEADING TO THE MURDERER...

THERE WAS SOME PROGRESS WITH THE INVEST-IGATION?

IT'S AS IF HE THINKS HE'S THE ONLY PERSON WHO WON'T GET ASSAULTED BY THE MURDERER...

WHERE DOES HE GET ALL HIS CONFIDENCE FROM?

THIS GUY...

DO THEY KNOW WHO THE CULPRIT IS?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

IF I WERE TO SAY THERE WAS...

WHO IS IT?

IF I TELL YOU, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

HEH.

THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS WHATSOEVER.... HAHAHA.

....NO WAY.

WILL YOU SEEK REVENGE?

WELL... THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT THE CULPRIT IS THE SAME PERSON WHO KILLED THE OLD WOMAN."

WHICH MEANS, IT COULD'VE BEEN FUJIMIYA RIKA.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS,

FOR NOW, YOU ARE ALSO A SUSPECT. UNDER-STOOD, AMANO?

.....

ABOUT THAT,

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BUTLER AND THE MAIDS COULD'VE CONSPIRED TOGETHER AND...

COULDN'T IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE CULPRIT WAS SOMEONE ELSE?

NO...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY MY INVESTIGATION WAS WRONG?

LIVELY SCANS

DONG

DONG

DING

DING

DONG

DONG

DONG

I KILLED.

MY MOTHER!!

17

KILLED HER!!

1.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER, SHE WAS FOUND DEAD WITH A WRITTEN CONFESSION AND HER WILL.
AND SHE TRIED TO RUN AWAY BEFORE THE POLICE CAME.
RIKA HERSELF CONFESSED TO COMMITTING THE CRIME.
THE THREE OF THEM HAD NO REASON TO LIE.
AND, WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER CULPRIT ASIDE FROM HER?
BEFORE SHE RAN AWAY, SHE BURNT ALL PICTURES OF HERSELF.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
SHE COULD'VE DONE IT IN ORDER TO RUN AWAY, BY PLACING SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY THERE.

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

THIS ISN'T TETSUO.

I WAS WRONG

THE OUTLAW AND THE WAR

REMIND ME

EH?

SHE RESENTED HER, AND KILLED HER IN A CRUEL WAY.

SO THINKING SHE WOULDN'T GET ANY INFO TAKE BECAUSE OF IT

BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF HER CHARACTER SHE WAS CONSTANTLY ARGUING WITH HER STEPMOTHER, WHO IN TURN, STARTED TO HATE HER.

SHE WAS MARKED AS THE ADOPTIVE DAUGHTER WHO AIMED FOR A FRIENDLY OLD WOMAN'S FORTUNE...

IT'S WOMAN

TRULY IS AN EVIL SPIRIT.

IS THIS BLURRY ONE HERE.

ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HER PICTURES,

ARE THERE ANY PORTRAITS OF HER?

MARUBE-SAN,

"SHIBAN-MUSHI".

SO THIS IS,

AND BECAUSE OF THAT IT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY DIFFICULT TO CREATE A GOOD PORTRAIT.

IT SEEMS SHE HAD A REALLY BEAUTIFUL FACE...

HOW-EVER,

THEY SAY HER VOICE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THAT OF A GODDESS.

HER VOICE,

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

AND NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY SEARCHED, THEY COULDN'T FIND HIM.

HOWEVER HE DISAP-PEARED AFTER THE INCIDENT,

HE HAD A PICTURE OF HER IN HIS NOTEBOOK,

IT SEEMS HE SHOWED IT AROUND A LOT.

HIS NAME IS HONJOU SHIROU, 32 YEARS OLD.

BECAUSE HE HAD A SOLID ALIBI, THEY DIDN'T INVOLVE HIM IN THE INVESTIGATION.

IF HE'S STILL ALIVE THAT IS.

.....

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE DETAILS...

CHAPTER 19 - MESS AND CONFESSION

100,000!
!
2
SO?
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DATA I'VE GOT ON HIM.
AND OBTAIN HIS PHOTO OF RIKA, I'LL GIVE YOU 100,000 YEN.
IF YOU MANAGE TO FIND HONJOU SHIROU IN THAT TIME,

LUVELY SCANS
http://lovelyscans.com

THE CONVER-SATION STILL ISN'T OVER, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK YOUR WORDS.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT GIVING ME THE ANSWER NOW?

I'LL DO IT!

EVERY-THING IS WORKING OUT AS I WANTED!!

THIS DEAL IS AWE-SOME !!

I'LL DO IT!

IF I DON'T ANSWER, YOU'LL TALK TO SATOKO, THAT IS ALL I DEMAND.

YOU WILL GIVE ME A PHONE CALL EVERY DAY AT 7:00 AM TO REPORT ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF YOUR INVESTIGATION.

IN CASE YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO FIND IT...

AND NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PENALTY.

.....

I UNDER-STAND.

YOU'RE FIRED.

YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO COME NEAR SATOKO EVER AGAIN.

AND THE SAME GOES FOR THE GHOST TOWER.

I'LL GO GET THE DOCUMENTS, SO WAIT HERE.

YOUR TIME WILL START RUNNING THE MOMENT I GIVE THEM TO YOU.

WELL ?

SINCE YOU WERE CAPABLE ENOUGH TO GET ALL THE MEASUREMENTS FOR THE MANSION IN ONE HOUR, YOU'LL SOMEHOW MANAGE THIS, AM I RIGHT?

.... WHAT IF,

THE POLICE GETS TO HIM BEFORE I DO?

IF I BECOME UNABLE TO COME NEAR THE GHOST TOWER...THEN I CAN SAY GOODBYE TO THE TREASURE...

.....

HOWEVER, IF YOU MANAGE TO OUTWIT THE POLICE, THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING.

IN THAT CASE IT ENDS THERE.

WITH YOUR LOSS.

SOUNDS COM-PLETELY IMPOS-SIBLE BUT-

...ONE WEEK,

I'LL STILL FIRE YOU.

BY THE WAY, EVEN IF YOU REFUSE NOW,

IT'S ABOUT THE LANDLADY THAT TOOK CARE OF ME, SHE'S TROUBLED SINCE HER PLACE GOT BURNED DOWN...

...ERM ...

WHAT?

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT.

THERE IS NO WAY OUT OF IT.

SINCE THE CONDITIONS ARE SO UNREASONABLE.
I SHOULD GET AT LEAST THAT MUCH OF A REWARD.
RING RING
IF I MANAGE TO FIND THE PICTURE,
COULD YOU ALSO FIND SOME WORK FOR HER?
IT'S 11:20.
IF YOU FIND IT...
GO!
A-ND,

ERM,

WELL, DO YOUR BEST.

THAT PICTURE OF RIKA YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF EVIDENCE RIGHT?

WILL BE USEFUL TO THE INVESTIGATION.

KNOWING WHETHER SHE IS DEAD OR ALIVE,

WHETHER THE CORPSE THAT WAS FOUND WAS REALLY HERS OR NOT.

WITH THAT PICTURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM,

OF COURSE.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND THAT WELL, BUT,

LIKE BY THE SHAPE OF HER EARS OR SOMETHING.

IF THAT'S TRUE,

YOU DEFINITELY MUSTN'T HAND IT OVER TO MY FATHER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING TO HIM ABOUT?

SATOKO,

LAST NIGHT ME

EH?

NOTHING

.....

ALL RIGHT

GO AMANO

"YESTERDAY EVENING HE-"
I WON-DER.
WHAT SHE WANTED TO TELL ME AFTERWARDS...
SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHING
MAYBE SHE WAS TRYING TO SAY THAT.
YESTERDAY EVENING HE WENT OUT BY HIMSELF, AND HIM GOING OUT AT NIGHT IS SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY-
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

LUNAR SCANS

SHE THINKS HE IS "SHIBANMUSHI"...

I WONDER IF,

IT'S THE NICKNAME I GAVE TO THE PERSON WHO MURDERED HANAZONO-SAN.

AH...

.....

"SHIBAN-MUSHI"?

VERY GOOD.

I SEE,

.....

IF MARUBE IS "SHIBANMUSHI",

I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THIS, BUT,

HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PIN HANAZONO'S MURDER ON HER.

BECAUSE IF THE BODY WERE TO BE IDENTIFIED AS RIKA'S,

SHE MIGHT TESTIFY AND SAY SHE DIDN'T COMMIT THE CURRENT MURDER.

IF RIKA WERE TO BE ALIVE AND GET CAUGHT,

ON THE CONT-RARY,

HE MIGHT WANT RIKA'S WHEREABOUTS TO BE UNKNOWN.

THEN,

HE WANTS TO GET THE PICTURE AND MAKE SURE IT GETS DISPOSED OF BY HIMSELF.

MORE LIKE, RATHER THAN BEING UNSURE ABOUT WHERE IT IS,

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS, THAT, HE DOESN'T WANT THAT PICTURE AROUND?

ANYWAYS,

BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF HIS WORK.

HE'S IN THE POSITION TO DO THAT.

SEAR-CHING FOR THAT PICTURE?

WON'T YOU STOP.

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT?

IT'S NOT USELESS TO SEARCH FOR IT.

SINCE HERE IS A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT RIKA IS "SHIBANMUSHI",

IF YOU FIND THAT PICTURE,

WHAT IF IT'S A BAD PICTURE?

...BUT,

IT MIGHT END UP COSTING YOU YOUR LIFE.
.....
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME WITH ME.
.....
YOU MIGHT BE MY FIRST AND ONLY FRIEND.
SO I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET CAUGHT UP IN SOME-THING DANGEROUS.

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

IF FATE WANTS IT,

.....

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE HER FACE THAT BADLY?

YEAH.

BECAUSE

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR.

I AM THAT RIKA.

PFT.

.....

HEHE.

.....

STOP IT TETSUO!

STOP JOKING AROUND WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE EXPRESSION~!!

FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE A GUY RIGHT?

AND YOU, WELL,

YOU HAVE A NICE BOYISH VOICE BUT IT DOESN'T FIT THE BILL RIGHT?

BESIDES, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF,

RIKA IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A REALLY BEAUTIFUL VOICE.

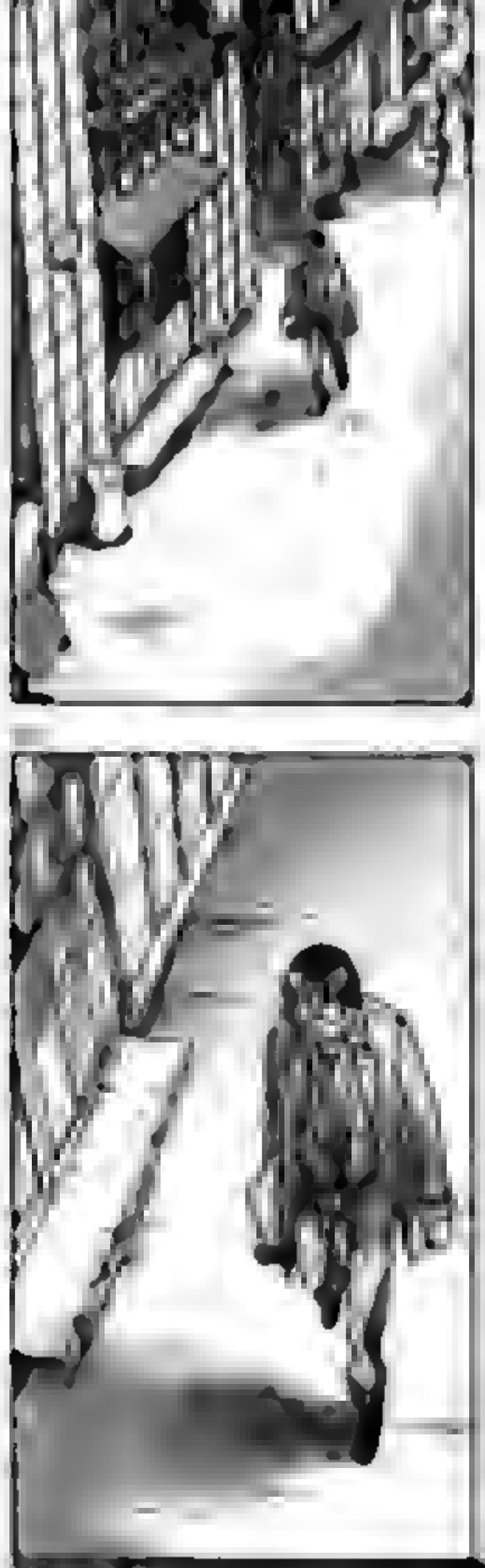
AND EVEN IF YOU WERE TO DRESS AS A GIRL,

YOU'LL NEVER BECOME LIKE HER.

....WELL,
.....
IF YOU'D HAVE A FEMALE FIGURE,
.....
IT'S NO USE HUH.
IT WAS AN UNCLEAR PICTURE BUT,
SHE LOOKED LIKE A REAL WOMAN...
SHE WAS SLIMMER AND HAD BI...
IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT TYPE AS HERS...
I'M BLAB-BERING AGAIN...
WHAT AM I SAYING,
A REAL BEAUTY...
SHE APPEARED TO BE,

LOVELY SCANS
http://lovelyscans.com

SEE YA
THIS
IT WON'T MEAN A THING IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF ME



HOP IN.

STOP

I'LL GO WITH YOU.

IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BAD.

IF YOU WERE TO DIE BECAUSE I LEFT YOU ALONE,

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.

I HAD A FEELING YOU'D GO AFTER ME TETSUO.

THANK YOU.

YOU,

SUSPECTED ME OF BEING "SHIBANMUSHI" DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH
.....
SO AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF BEING WITH ME?
HOW-EVER,
I SEE EVERYONE AS "SHIBANMUSHI".
RIGHT NOW I DON'T TRUST ANYONE
TRUTH BE TOLD.

THAT'S THE ONLY THING I BELIEVE IN.

RIGHT NOW,

YOU SAVED ME AT THE CLOCK TOWER.

LIES... HUH...

.....

IN CASE YOU'RE FEEDING ME A NUMBER OF LIES.

EVEN,

FOR NOW LET'S GO TO KURE.

HONJOU'S RESIDENCE IS THERE

TO KURE IN HIRO-SHIMA

WHERE TO?

SO?

KURE HUH.

.....

WOOM

THE HOUSE OF

2

LIVE-AX SCANS
http://live-axscans.com

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!!

I CAN'T SEE!!

(...) YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ....?

EH?

I THOUGHT WE'D ONLY STAY HERE FOR A DAY, SO I DIDN'T BRING ANY SPARE CLOTHES WITH ME.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? ANYONE KNOW?

THIS ISN'T HELPING!

WE NEED SHELTER.

LET'S GO UNDER THAT ROOF!!

CHE.

EVERY-THING'S CLOSED SHUT...

I WONDER IF THERE'S A PLACE AROUND HERE WHERE WE COULD STAY FOR THE NIGHT.

WE DIDN'T BRING OUR CAR WITH US AND WE CAN'T SLEEP OUTSIDE...

I WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT COULD YOU STOP RELYING ON ME WHENEVER IT COMES TO MAKING AN IMPORTANT DECISION!?

I'M NOT YOUR PARENT!

WE MIGHT AS WELL TRY ASKING AT THAT LARGE MANSION ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!

SINCE WE'RE GONNA ASK SOME-ONE TO STAY AT THEIR PLACE,

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

.....

THAT'S THE HONJOU'S RESIDENCE ISN'T IT.

SIGN HONJOU

4

本城

HONJOU SHINO.

MY NAME IS,

MY OLDER BROTHER SHIROU'S FRIENDS.

I HEARD YOU TWO ARE,

I'M 18 YEARS OLD NOW AND HE STILL HASN'T COME BACK...
MY BROTHER LEFT HOME BEFORE I TURNED ONE,
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE WORKED TOGETHER IN KOBE FOR A LONG TIME, IMPORTING MISCELLANEOUS THINGS AND SUCH.
THEY REPRINTED A PHOTO FOR US, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS PICTURE WE WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.
THE POLICE CAME LOOKING FOR HIM ONCE TWO YEARS AGO,
AND HE TOLD US TO COME PAY HIM A VISIT WHEN IN HIROSHIMA.
HE ALWAYS KEPT SAYING HOW DELICIOUS THE FISH WERE AND THAT WE SHOULD COME VISIT SOME DAY.
I WONDER IF HE WAS JUST JOKING,
I SEE~
I'LL GO PREPARE A BATH RIGHT AWAY.
IS IT REALLY OK?
YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT HERE IF YOU'D LIKE.
HE'S REALLY GOOD AT MAKING SMALL TALK.
YOU BROTHER WAS A HAND-SOME MAN,
.....
HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER.
ABOUT MY BROTHER OVER DINER.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE,
AS TWO HANDSOME MEN, WE GOT ALONG WELL.

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

HE SAID WE WERE THE ONLY PASSENGERS.

I CONFIRMED IT WITH THE CAPTAIN,

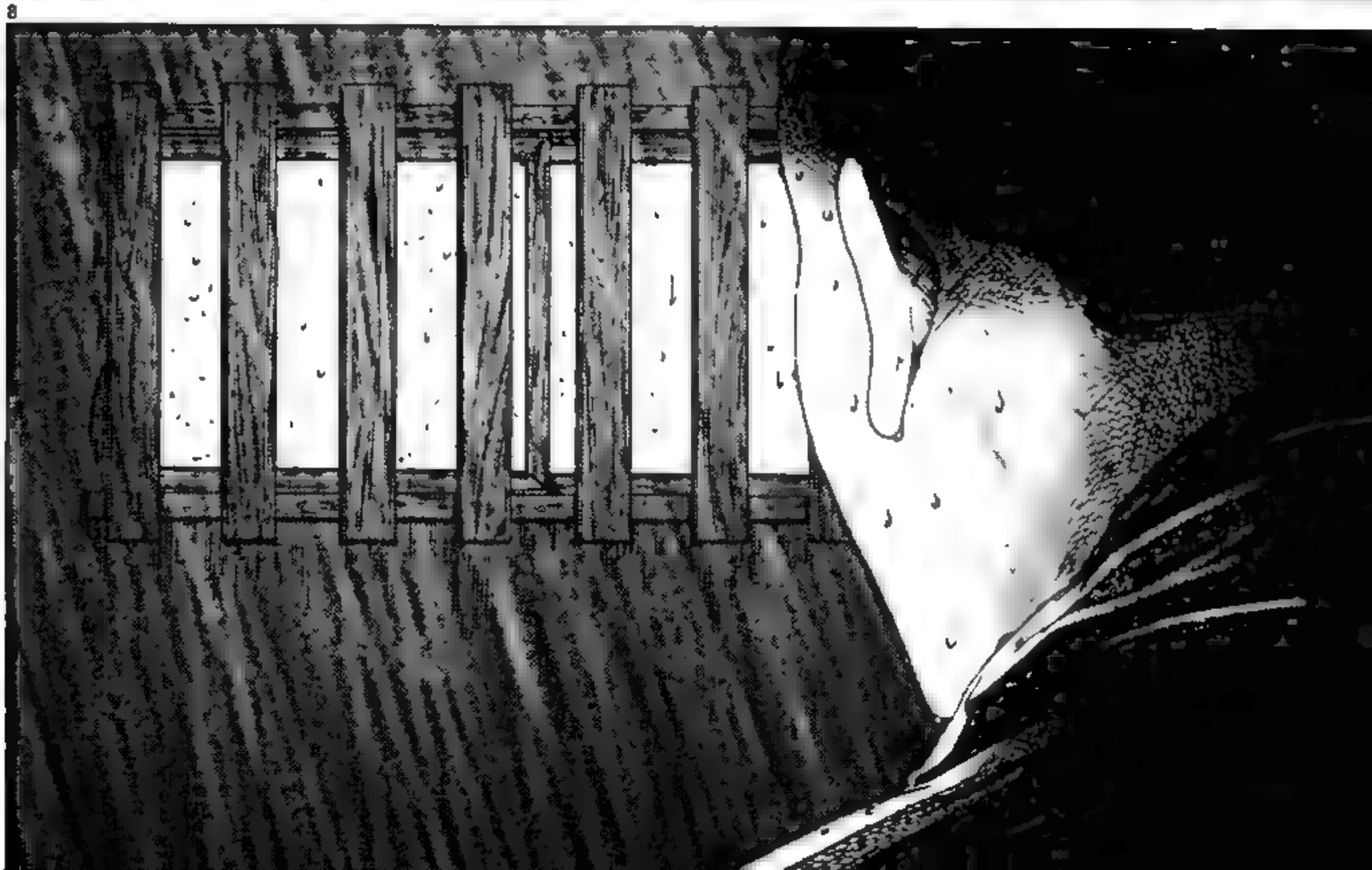
THAT UNLESS IT'S A GHOST, "SHIBANMUSHI" ISN'T ON THIS ISLAND!!

WHICH MEANS,

I CAN SLEEP IN PEACE EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR ONE NIGHT.

WHEN I WAS IN KOBE I WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE KILLING ME IN MY SLEEP, BUT NOW,

8



THE DINNER IS READY IN THE GRAND HALL.

AH, ALL RIGHT

I SHOULD BE HAPPY IT'S AT LEAST A NEW ONE...

A LOIN-CLOTH HUH...

THE HOUSE SURE IS BIG...

I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE?

THERE'S NO SIGN OF PEOPLE LIVING IN HERE.....

AMANO-SAN SEEMS TO BE RUNNING LATE.
I'LL GO CHECK UP ON HIM.
THAT GUY LIKES TAKING LONG BATHS.
PLEASE LEAVE HIM BE FOR A WHILE LONGER.
BY THE WAY, SHIRO-SAN ABSOLUTELY LOVED MOVIES.
I REMEMBER HIM TALKING ABOUT IKEBE RYOU IN THE MOVIE "BLUE MOUNTAINS", HE WAS WELL IN HIS THIRTIES YET HE PLAYED A HIGH SCHOOLER.
HE OFTEN SANG--
FUJIYAMA ICHIROU AND NARA MITSUE'S THEME SONGS~
THAT'S RIGHT SHINO-SAN.
LET'S SING TOGETHER!
I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN MY SINGING.
DO IT, DO IT.
A DUET OF TWO BEAUTIES!

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGED TO SHIROU.

THIS ROOM...

EVERYTHING IS COVERED IN DUST.

THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF ANYONE LIVING HERE EITHER...

IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE'S BEEN HERE IN A WHILE

IT SEEMS LIKE HONJOU REALLY DIDN'T RETURN.

....
LOOKS LIKE A STORAGE ROOM.

THE ATTIC...

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH DUST HERE.

IS THIS...

WHAT THE HELL...

I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE...

.....

COME AMANO. DRINK.

YOU FINALLY CAME!

.....

DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?

I'LL GO REHEAT THE BOWLS.

AN ICHIMATSU NINGYO*...

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT.

*A [illegible]

I DRANK TOO MUCH

HICK

YEAH

IF HONJOU SHIROU WAS A WEIRDO...

I WONDER.

HIS UNCLE AND HIS WIFE WHO INHERITED THIS PLACE SEEM LIKE NICE PEOPLE

HONJOU'S PARENTS BOTH DIED 18 YEARS AGO.

IF I WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM JUST A BIT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOME CLUES LEADING TO HIM...*

IN CASE HE DOESN'T COME BACK, THEY INTEND TO ADOPT SHINO INTO THE FAMILY AND HAVE HER INHERIT EVERYTHING.

THEY STILL THINK SHIROU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO INHERIT ALL THIS AND BECOME HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

THEY HAVE ALL THESE THINGS WE DON'T...! I WONDER WHAT IT IS THEY AREN'T BLESSED WITH.

THE OTHERS DELIBERATELY WANTED CHAOS AND DISORDER THEMSELVES, BUT IT'S LIKE THAT EVERYWHERE

YET YOU WON'T WANT TO BE THERE NO MATTER WHAT.

THERE ARE ALSO PLACES WHERE YOU CAN HAVE EVERYTHING, SOMEWHERE,

HE MUST'VE HAD A REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO STAY HERE.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

THE CHAPNEL HOUSE?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW,
IS TO CHECK OUT THAT CHAPNEL HOUSE AND THEN WE CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE.
THE THING ON TOP OF THIS ESTATE.
IT SEEMS TO BE A PLACE WHERE NO ONE BUT THE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER.
YOU BROUGHT A FLASHLIGHT WITH YOU RIGHT?
WE'LL NEVER GET A BETTER CHANCE THAN IN THIS STORM.

LILY SCANS

WHEN WALKING ON A SLIPPERY SLOPE!!

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE.

WHAT'S WITH THAT AWFUL WALKING STYLE OF YOURS?

YOU SHOULD TRY IT!

THEN JUST FALL.

YOU DRUNKARD.

I'D RATHER BITE OFF MY TONGUE AND DIE THAN WALK LIKE A CRAB!

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE AN ESTHETIC SENSE.

CLIMB FASTER!

YOU'RE TOO CAUTIOUS.

LIKE THIS.

SO UNUSUALLY CHARMING...

HE'S ALWAYS,

BUT,

ISN'T HE A GUY....

WHY AM I REACTING TO THIS.

.....

I STILL REFUSE TO WALK LIKE A CRAB.

BEHIND YOU!
TETSUO.

TETSUO!

CHAPTER 5: PERSUASION TO RISE

LILY SCANS

NOTIFY THE OTHERS ISLANDERS AND ORGANIZE A MANHUNT.

THE OTHER ONE ESCAPED.

AND UNDER WHAT PRETENSE SHOULD WE DO THAT?

.....

...PEOPLE FROM THE HOUNJOU FAMILY?

TELL THEM,

THAT WE'RE HUNTING DOWN KAZUO'S MURDERER.

T-T-T-T-

H-H-HE'S DEAD!!

SO TAKE HIM TO A CELL FOR NOW.

HIS BUDDY MIGHT COME TO RESCUE HIM.

ALL RIGHT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS.

WAIT A SECOND !!

WE DIDN'T DO IT!! W-WE DIDN'T KILL HIM!!

W-W-WE-

THIS IS A MISUNDER-STAND-ING!!

WE REALLY DIDN'T!

5

I'M SORRY.

.....

WAIT...

.....

LIVELY SCANS
http://lively.proboards.com

PREPARE THE OIL.

OK.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

HELP ME!!

WHAT WILL YOU USE IT FOR!?

OIL?

I GUESSED IT RIGHT BUT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT OUT LOUD!

NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL LET ME GO AND SAY IT WAS ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING!!

BE QUIET

.....!!

THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE.

LET'S RETREAT FOR NOW.

I'M YAMASHINA FROM THE KOBE POLICE.

BECAUSE AMANO-KUN IS STILL A SUSPECT IN THAT FEMALE JOURNALIST'S MURDER CASE.

I WAS TAILING YOU GUYS.

THE POLICE HUH...

I HAD HIM LIE TO YOU.

THE CAPTAIN SAID WE WERE THE ONLY ONES RIDING ON THAT SHIP.

SO CALL THE OTHER ONE AND ARREST ALL OF THEM!

IF YOU ARE A REAL POLICEMAN, YOU SHOULD BE TRAVELING IN PAIR WITH SOMEONE.

THEN HOW DO WE SAVE AMANO!?

IT WAS DECIDED THIS PLACE DOESN'T NEED ONE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE CRIME RATE HERE IS ZERO.

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE A POLICE STATION.

I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHO-RIZATION TO ACT OUTSIDE MY DISTRICT.

AND UNFOR-TUNA-TELY I'M ALONE.

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.

.....

THE REASON WHY THIS PLACE HAS A CRIME RATE OF ZERO IS,
BECAUSE WHENEVER ANYTHING HAPPENS HERE, THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND DEAL WITH IT AND COVER IT UP!!
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME IF THEY WERE TO FIND ME.
ONCE THE STORM CALMS DOWN A BIT WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE SHIP BACK AND CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THEY DEAL WITH AMANO,
AND SYNCHRONIZE THEIR STATEMENTS BY THE TIME WE MAKE IT BACK WITH THOSE REINFORCEMENTS ?
.....
BUT IF THE TWO OF US TESTIFY WE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO ARREST THEM RIGHT?
I WONDER. WE CAN'T TELL WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE.
...CHE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE WORST CASE SCENARIO....
ALL RIGHT, LET'S FIND A TRANS-CEIVER.

HIVEAY SCANS
http://hiveayscans.com/

NOT BAD.

WE CAN UNTIE A BOAT AND SEND IT INTO THE OPEN SEA TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF YOU RAN AWAY.

BESIDES, IT MIGHT NOT EVEN WORK BECAUSE OF THE STORM... SO IT'LL HAVE TO BE A TRANSCEIVER.

THERE IS A PHONE IN THE HONJOU RESIDENCE, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR THERE.

HMM....

THIS CONVERSATION IS GOING UNUSUALLY SMOOTH...

SO THIS IS HOW WELL A CONVERSATION FLOWS WITHOUT ANY SLOW PEOPLE AROUND....

IT COULD WORK AS A DIVERSION.

AND THE CLINIC SHOULD BOTH HAVE ONE.

THE PUBLIC OFFICE,

THE PUBLIC OFFICE IT IS.

I HEARD THE ONLY DOCTORS AROUND HERE ARE ON THE MAINLAND.

WHY DO I NEED TO BE LOCKED UP IN A CHARNEL HOUSE!!

AND THERE'S EVEN A WOMAN'S NAIL LEFT!!

THERE ARE EVEN TRACES OF WORDS PEOPLE CARVED IN THE WOOD WITH THEIR NAILS.

CLICK

WHO LOCKED ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE!?

THERE'S A BUNCH OF CARVINGS!

DON'T WIN

KILL ME

.....!

HELP ME!!

OPEN THE DOOR.

OR ELSE I'LL JUST TAKE A DUMP HERE.

...ERM, I NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET.

HERE YOU GO.

.....

NO,

.....

SO SHE'S JUST LIKE THE REST OF THEM....

...SHINO-SAN.

SHE'S THE SAME AS BEFORE.
SHE'S STILL YOUNG,
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN CORRUPTED BY THIS ISLAND YET.
...ERM,
WON'T YOU SHOW ME YOUR HANDS?
HANDS.
YOUR HANDS!
EH?
14
BEAUTIFUL HANDS.
SHE HAS,
THAT SHE HANGED HIM OR STRANGLED HIM USING HER BACK,
THERE IS OF COUR-SE THE POSSI-BILITY,
IF SHE WERE TO PULL THAT SMALL ROPE WITH ALL HER POWER, SHE WOULD'VE DAMAGED HER HANDS.
THE ONE WHO KILLED THE VICTIM USED GREAT STRENGTH TO STRANGLE HIM.
LUVELY SCANS

SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'D HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR IT....

BE-SIDES,

BUT IN THAT CASE THERE WOULD BE NO TRACES LEFT ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK.

IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONVINCE HER TO LET ME GO!!

SINCE SHE'S NOT THE CULPRIT,

SHE IS DEFINITELY NOT THE CULPRIT!!

ERM.

.....

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE MAINLAND?

NO I HAVEN'T.

THIS ISLAND IS VERY NICE BUT,

THE MAINLAND IS SO MUCH FUN!

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

WITH YOUR LOOKS,

YOU'D EVEN OUTDO ALL THE MODERN BEAUTIES FROM KOBE, OSAKA AND EVEN TOKYO.

ALL THE STORES FILLED WITH FASHIONABLE CLOTHES! MODERN CAFÉ'S! I'D LOVE TO SHOW YOU AROUND-

TAKARAZUKA'S BRILLIANT REVUE,

A LOVE LIKE THE ONE IN THE MOVIES MIGHT BE WAITING FOR YOU!!

MEH, DOESN'T MATTER.

IT HAS TO BE TETSUO ....

A~AH, TETSUO, TETSUO,

LIKE TETSUO?

ARE THERE MANY PEOPLE,

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW HIM ACT LIKE THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT. TETSUO ALSO SAID THAT YOU'RE VERY LOVELY.

... SHINO -SAN.

HE LIED ON THE FLOOR AND KEPT LOOKING UP AT THE CEILING, SIGHING....

A BRIGHT FUTURE IS WAITING FOR YOU.

.....

HE'S MADLY IN LOVE.

HE EVEN WHISPERED HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU!

LET'S BECOME FREE TOGETHER!
OPEN THE LOCK.
YOU MUSTN'T SUPPORT THE MURDER
FREE

WHAT!?

BUT 2 OR 3 PEOPLE TO THE HARBOR!!

WAS THE CRIMINAL ON IT?

A BOAT WAS DISPATCHED.

SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE LEFT.

HA?

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SHAPE, I THINK MALE LEGS LOOK BETTER.

JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, I DON'T REALLY LIKE FEMALE LEGS.

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME.

I WAS JUST SAYING YOUR LEGS AREN'T AS ROUGH AS A MAN'S, NOR ARE THEY SOFT AND FLABBY LIKE A WOMAN'S, THEY'RE NICE LEGS.

MY BAD,

AND JUST FOR THE INFO, I DON'T SWING THAT WAY.

I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT THE SHAPE.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SPY ON YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOTIVE?

HEY,

THEN WHY SAY IT!?

WHICH MEANS,

SO HE THOUGHT IT WOULD'VE MADE NO DIFFERENCE IF HE, WHO CAME FROM A DISTANT BRANCH FAMILY, WOULD BECOME HEAD.

KAZUO MADE SOME COMPLAINTS. THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE FAMILY USED TO BE A MERE BRANCH FAMILY MEMBER.

WE DINED TOGETHER LAST EVENING.

THE ONE WHO WAS MURDERED SEEMS TO BE SHINO'S SECOND COUSIN KAZUO.

HE SURE WAS CONFIDENT FOR SOMEONE FROM A BRANCH FAMILY.

HE WAS BASICALLY SAYING HE PLANS ON MARRYING SHINO.

COULD BE.

I WONDER IF HE KNEW THE HEAD'S WEAKNESS...

THE HONJOU FAMILY.

THEY SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF DARK SECRETS--

HE WAS OGLING HER.

SOMETHING WEIRD.

SOMETHING WEIRD SEEMS TO HAPPEN TO EACH GENERATION.

ABOUT THE DISAP-PEARANCES OF THE HEADS OF THE HONJOU FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS.

LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING,

INSIDE THE SPAN OF ONE WEEK AFTER HIS DEATH,
HIS WIFE ALSO DIES OF AN ILLNESS.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THAT?
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO HONJOU SHIROU'S AND SHINO'S MOTHER.
FIVE DAYS AFTER HIS DEATH,
A NOTIFICATION CAME SAYING SHE DIED OF AN ILLNESS.
THIS IS JUST MY GUESS BUT,

LIVELY SCANS
http://livelyscans.com

COULD IT BE POSSIBLE,

THEY FORCE THEM INTO COMMITTING SUICIDE...?

IT SEEMS SOMETHING LIKE THAT EXISTS IN THE SOUTHERN RELIGION.

SO THAT THE SPOUSE DOESN'T TAKE IN ANY CHILDREN AND THE HOUSE DOESN'T GET TAKEN OVER BY OUTSIDERS....

OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

IT SEEMS THE WIFE IS BURNT ALIVE.

THEN HONJOU SHIROU'S MOTHER...

WAS MURDERED BY HER OWN FAMILY...!?